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# I heft

Don't  
Become  
A Victim

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AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

*"State-issued driver's licenses and ID cards are the most widely used forms of identification in the country. That puts this office on the front lines of defense against identity theft and fraud."*



Jesse White  
Secretary of State



## Safeguard your Social Security number

Obtaining a fictitious driver's license or ID card often is the first step taken by identity thieves. The Office of the Secretary of State has taken important steps to address identity theft by making driver's licenses and state ID cards more secure.

The Secretary of State requires all driver's license and state ID card applicants to have their Social Security numbers verified online with the Social Security Administration (SSA) before a license or ID card is issued. If the Social Security number of an applicant does not match up with the SSA, the applicant is refused a license or ID card.

Social Security numbers also are no longer printed on Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards, making them a more secure means of identification for consumers and more difficult to use by identity thieves.

### Other ways to protect your Social Security number:

- Don't give out your Social Security number unless necessary.
- Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet.
- Don't print your Social Security number on your checks.

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PROTECT YOU



## **Protect your personal information**

In addition to your Social Security number, identity thieves can steal your name, address, driver's license number, bank account numbers and credit card numbers. They get this information by stealing purses or wallets, going through your mail or garbage, buying or stealing information from stores, restaurants, hotels and banks, and redirecting your mail. They also can obtain personal information from unsecure Internet sites.

### **Follow these tips to protect your personal information:**

- Don't leave your purse or wallet unattended.
- Carry only the IDs and credit cards you need.
- Don't give personal information over the phone.
- Don't transmit personal information over the Internet unless it is a secure site.
- Don't reveal personal information in e-mails or discussion forums.
- Keep passwords and PIN numbers in a safe place and avoid using easily available information.
- Review bank and credit card accounts regularly and report discrepancies and late or missing statements.
- Monitor your credit report by ordering free copies every year from the three major credit reporting agencies.
- Pick up your mail daily.
- Mail bills at the post office; don't leave them in your mailbox.
- Shred or tear up documents containing personal information before discarding.
- Store personal documents and account statements in a secure place in your home.

JR IDENTITY — DON'T BECOME A STATISTICS



## **Report identify theft**

- Report the fraud to the credit bureaus listed below and request that a "fraud alert" and victim's statement be placed in your file. This may help prevent an identity thief from opening additional accounts in your name.

**Equifax**

[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

**800-525-6285**

**Experian**

[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

**888-397-3742**

**Trans Union**

[www.tuc.com](http://www.tuc.com)

**800-680-7289**

- Call the Illinois Attorney General's Identity Theft Hotline.  
**866-999-5630 • 877-844-5461 (TTY)**  
[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.  
**Federal Trade Commission**  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)  
**877-ID-THEFT**
- Immediately contact all financial institutions and creditors to close all accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Open new accounts with new personal ID numbers and passwords.
- Immediately report the crime to law enforcement. Get a copy of the police report for banks and creditors.
- Keep a record of all dates and conversations. Send all correspondence by certified mail and keep copies of all letters and documents.

ME A VICTIM





At one time or another, you may have been a victim of identity theft. As a victim you may feel violated, helpless and overwhelmed.

You are not alone. Identity theft has become rampant in our age of technology and credit card usage. That is why my office is providing this brochure, which includes information on how to safeguard your personal information and what to do if you become a victim of identity theft.

My office has taken important steps to prevent identity theft by tightening security on Illinois driver's licenses and ID cards. Before an applicant can obtain a license or ID card, his/her Social Security number is verified online through the Social Security Administration.

On average, a victim will spend 30 hours recovering from identity theft and consumer fraud. By taking the extra measure to verify Social Security numbers at our facilities, we are saving more people from that frustration and expense.

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Secretary of State

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

## **Other ways to protect your identity**

- If your mail has been stolen, report it to your local postal inspector or the U.S. postal inspector.  
**[www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov)**
- If you have had checks stolen or bank accounts set up fraudulently in your name, contact Telecheck to have your files flagged.  
**[www.telecheck.com](http://www.telecheck.com) • 800-366-2425**
- If your investments or brokerage accounts have been tampered with, report it to your broker and to the Securities and Exchange Commission.  
**[www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) • 800-SEC-0330**
- If you believe someone is using your Social Security number, report it to the Social Security Fraud Hotline.  
**800-269-0271**
- If fraud was part of a business scam, call the National Fraud Information Center.  
**800-876-7060**
- If someone has filed for bankruptcy using your name, contact the U.S. Trustee Program in the region where the bankruptcy was filed.  
**[www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov).**
- If a criminal or driving record has been created fraudulently under your name, contact the State's Attorney's office in your jurisdiction. You may need to consult an attorney to help resolve the problem.
- If your driver's license number has been used, call the Secretary of State Driver Services Department.  
**217-782-7037**

## **For more information:**

**Illinois Secretary of State**

**800-252-8980**

**[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)**

**Illinois Attorney General**

**866-999-5630**

**[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)**



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